



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

First Press

June 2023

Youth Sunday 2023: We Are All God's Offspring



The youth group leads the final hymn as Asher (top right) makes his way to the organ. Sandy honors senior Maddie (bottom right).



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This year as they read scripture and prepared for Youth Sunday, the students considered all of us as God's offspring, helping one another to know God better. They thought about a variety of metaphors for God and for people from extended family to animals like the sheep imagery so prevalent in Bible times and lands.

This is the Call to Worship students wrote with John-Paul Fletcher's support.

God, we come before you as

Sheep no longer following blindly

Cats independent but still part of your family

Dogs faithful to our master, always praising.

As the bee pollinates flowers to make fruit

You come into our lives to make us whole

You are the only one who can herd stray cats

and gather us in the world

We praise and worship you, God of all

Pastor's Page

My Dear Friends,

This is my final month as your pastor- things are moving fast. We have entered into escrow here, and a crew is busily renovating our cottage at Monte Vista Grove - installing new sinks and shower tile and fresh flooring and shiny faucets. Suddenly it seems time is flying!

We will celebrate these extraordinary years we have shared on June 18th in worship and at a lunch immediately following (Mediterranean food! **You must make reservations! Please call the office by June 14!**) Our last day together will be Sunday June 25. It will not be a 'special event', but rather a celebration of the ordinary and familiar things that have knit us together over and over. We will gather round the communion table with the One who meets us there saying "remember, I am with you always." It will be a sweet time.

I want to say again that there will never be a day when I do not love you, pray for you, and thank God for you! I will love and treasure you every day. But what I cannot do is provide pastoral services. You may wish I could do a funeral or a wedding or provide pastoral counseling- but I cannot do so. This is for the congregation's sake and for my own.

A congregation will find it hard to love a new pastor and hear a new call when they remain connected to their former pastor. I want you to thrive and flourish and imagine new ministries and follow the Spirit onward. It would break my heart to be a hindrance to that.

And as for me? I feel called by God's Spirit to discover what awaits me in this next chapter. I cannot do that if I keep looking over my shoulder, or hanging on to what is coming to an end. I will miss you so fiercely, but I must find what is next, and trust the One my heart loves.

This is easier to write than it will be to accomplish. All change feels like loss. But the God who called us to each other 17 years ago has new plans for us all, which gives me joy!

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this: that the One who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 1:3-6)

With such love and gratitude,

~Sandy

Photo--Full Circle:

Tom and I were married at Pasadena Pres. Lynn and Gary both participated in marrying us. They are married to each other and will be our neighbors in Pasadena.



Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

Sgt. Jacob Allen,
US Marines, MFR Band, New Orleans, Louisiana

Cpl Jeremy Allen,
US Marines, Okinawa, Japan

FPC Ethan Gano,
US Marines, Pensacola, Florida

Seaman Mark Munz,
US Navy, San Diego, California

Seaman Robert Sandoval,
US Navy, Virginia

Petty Officer Noah L. Wierenga,
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River

CW3 James Bentley Wilson,
US Army, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington

Cadet Grace Wilson
Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado



The *First Press*, the newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, is edited by Wendy Lamb. Please submit content to Wendy at newsletter@fpcsb.net. **The deadline for the following month's newsletter is the 15th of each month.**

Notes

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of April 30, 2023.

General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$102,179.14	119,214.64	(17,035.50)
Other Income*	\$50,651.16	48,640.28	2,010.88
Expense	\$177,999.27	186,646.82	(8,647.55)
Net Income	\$(25,168.97)	(18,791.90)	(6,377.07)

Thank You!

We help one another...

"Heartfelt gratitude for two trips for corneal surgery. Four meows!"

--Carol Wright

Division Consolidation

	April	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	(1,383.47)	(25,168.97)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	96.57	(169.27)
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	(1,286.90)	(25,338.24)

FREE SHADE TREES

Help "Green" your neighborhood

Saturday June 10, 2023

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

1900 N. D St. San Bernardino, CA 92405



<https://ucanr.edu/freetreessanbernardino>

For San Bernardino residents as there is a limited supply of trees

To ensure a tree, please pre-register using the link/QR code above.

Questions? Please contact UCCE Environmental Horticulturist

Janet Hartin

jshartin@ucanr.edu



The University of California Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources (UC ANR) is an equal opportunity provider
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?? What is the Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women? ??

by Nancy Horstmann, Presbyterian Women in the Congregation



The Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women was launched in 1922 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States. It has become an annual tradition. Over the last century, these grants have funded over 200 major mission projects that continue to impact people in the United States and around the world.

The 2023 recipients are the Making Miracles Group Home in Tallahassee, Florida and the Kindergarten Classroom Construction at the Berhane Yesus Elementary School in Dembi Dollo, Ethiopia. The Making Miracles Home provides a one year live-in program designed to support young mothers in need and help them develop skills to live independently and care for their children. The Berhane Elementary School in the highlands of Ethiopia seeks to change lives by sharing the "Light of Jesus" and by providing the best possible educational experience for the children of the region. This school is the entry point in education for children of subsistence farmers, migrant workers and displaced groups of people. The Birthday Offering grant will provide the necessary funding for the construction of a classroom for the kindergarten program.

Presbyterian Women in our congregation plan to dedicate and celebrate the Birthday Offering at a Gathering on **June 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in Fireside Lounge**. We invite you to join us to show support for the Birthday Offering Grants and to enjoy refreshments and fellowship.

If you are able, we ask that you bring a new twin sheet set as a donation to the Hospitality House of the San Bernardino Salvation Army. You will hear more about the Hospitality House at the Gathering.

Food Ministry Growth

by Rick Rodriguez, Food Ministry

Food Ministry participation continues to increase. Early in the week before the Saturday food distribution, we prepare 192 bags from the food we get from Feeding America (FA). Then on Friday, we prepare another 192 bags from the food we get from Community Action Partnership. With a 2023 Saturday average attendance of 204 households, we had prepared additional FA bags for the May 20th distribution. But we were even busier than anticipated! Saturday's distribution, normally from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM, was ended at 10:30 AM, because we were almost out of those bags with people still in line. We ended up serving 220 households, a new high.

Our Tuesday/Thursday participation also continues to rise. At the time of writing, the number of times we've distributed food ("encounters") in the 6 weekday distributions in May, was 302, with 3 more days to go. We expect May's encounters to surpass the record high of 412 encounters of April.

Our ability to accurately predict any given day's activity is limited, as is our understanding of all the contributors to this growth.

- We hear recipients talk about the rising costs of food, rent, and utilities.
- We know about recently discontinued emergency benefits.
- We record long-term housed participants now living in cars or on the street.
- We learn that some families have taken in additional family members.
- We notice so many participants without transportation, struggling with disability, and so many other additional barriers to obtaining food.

We do know that the problems are complex and stressful. Please hold our food recipients in your hearts and prayers.

Given this heart-breaking need and growth, we were so blessed by church family members helping in so many ways this month -- bagging, paperwork, distribution, and helping pick up, unload and organize loads of food we received. Thank you all!

We always have a large variety of tasks of all kinds to do in the food ministry. If you are interested in helping feed those in our neighborhood, please contact Rick Rodriguez or Marilyn Kraft (numbers in directory or available from church office).

May Notes from your Session

by Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

Your Session met on Wednesday, May 24th with appetizers and desserts preceding the meeting. The primary item on the docket was to decide how best to honor Sandy upon her retirement. The Personnel Committee recommended, and Session approved, to give Sandy study leave from June 26-30 and to pay her twelve months of vacation time rather than the 6 months she is entitled to. This money will help her to offset the cost of her medical insurance which she will continue to pay for the next 12 months. Other discussion included possible retirement gifts (you'll hear more about that).

Session also met without pastors on May 21st with Bill Roozeboom, Liaison from Presbytery during the transition of Sandy's retirement. We agreed to form a Mission Assessment Team which will look at where this congregation is and where we want to be in the future. Everyone will have an opportunity to participate in this process so stay tuned! We will look at forming an Interim Search Committee in May to follow Sandy's retirement. In the meantime, Pastors Wendy and Steve look forward to leading the congregation in the months following Sandy's retirement. We are so blessed to have this continuity to lead us forward!

You are invited to:

A CELEBRATION OF WHAT WILL BE

Sunday, June 18, 2023
Directly after Worship (~11:30 a.m.)
In Fellowship Hall




We'll gather as a congregation with Sandy for a meal, table reflections, and fellowship.

Our meal will suit a variety of dietary preferences. There is **NO cost** for lunch, but we need a precise count, so you must contact Laurie or Mimi by Wednesday, June 14th to make a reservation.

In worship on this day, we will acknowledge Sandy's retirement and thank her for her years of ministry. Over lunch, we will celebrate what has been and what will be.


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN BERNARDINO
 909 882-3308 | malto.churchoffice@fpcsb.net | fpcsb.net

June Celebrations

Jun 1	Jon & Nancy Horstmann
Jun 2	Terri Carlos Amy Rueda Katie Smith
Jun 4	Erynne Arellano
Jun 5	Raymond Direen
Jun 7	Deb Burgan-Price Bob & Maria Saenz
Jun 8	David Grindahl
Jun 12	Rowan Fletcher
Jun 13	David Coyne
Jun 16	Joy Burgan-Price Elizabeth & Joseph Morales
Jun 19	David & Merry Beth Grindahl
Jun 20	Tom Garza Katrina Johnston
Jun 21	Nick Davies Sara Hibbs DeLeon
Jun 23	Jorge Carlos
Jun 25	Jim Huffstutler Randy & Kristine French
Jun 26	Wayne & Linda McCarl
Jun 28	Ava June Bodner Nancy Horstmann Shirley Raabe Brad & Amy Smith
Jun 30	Rhyland Emery French Sandy Garza Randy & Jenny Mantei

Session 2023

Sandy Tice, Moderator; Wendy Lamb, CLP; Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

Class of 2023: Jeanne Clarke, Susan Skoglund, Alex Smith, Tim Usher

Class of 2024: Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak, Patrick Morris, Martha Pinckney

Class of 2025: Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jonathan Horstmann, Phyllis Hough

FARSB Lifetime Achievement Award

by Marilyn Kraft

On Friday, 5/19/23, while a group of dedicated baggers were preparing our Saturday CAP bags, I was honored to represent our food program at the Feeding America of Riverside and San Bernardino (FARSB) "2023 Nourishing the IE Partnership Conference" in Riverside. There were sessions on Collaboration, Volunteer Management, Succession Planning, and Grant Tips. We are one of 270 FARSB partners, and one of 4 partners who received an award at this conference.

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino was awarded the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award, described as "presented to an organization **that has made their community a better place by dedicating their life to supporting those in need. Their community is better because of this organization's years of contributions.**

The discussion of succession planning, the award description, and comments on our many years brought to my mind so many people who made these years of contributions. Sally, Kathleen, and the Valentines, beloved saints yes, and mentors and collaborators. Then so many members and former members, some no longer active volunteers, who dedicated years to welcoming, and working on behalf of, our food insecure neighbors. And then there are the generous staff, Deacons, and other less visible donors, community partners, and others whose support has been critical to sustaining and transforming our food ministry through the years.

Many details have changed - the parking lot set up looks different with drive-thru, some organizers and many procedures have changed, and it's now hard to imagine the food program without San Bernardino High School students! With all the changes and uncertainty, the Spirit remains at work and visible, not only to our members and participants, but to our partners. Congratulations church!



Board of Deacons 2023

Rebecca Allen, Moderator; Steve Smith, Pastoral Support

Class of 2023: Rebecca Allen, Sharon Landeros, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Chris Wright Thomas

Class of 2024: Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Marianna Fowles, Richard Rodriguez, Katie Smith

Class of 2025: Brad Smith, Dave Thomas

Save the Date

150th Anniversary Celebration of First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino
Worship, Lunch, Crafts, Program, and "Campfire" Singing

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Help create a new dove for the chapel.

Stewardship: Taking Part in the Joy

by Pastor Sandy Tice

I wandered into a Presbyterian youth group when I was 11 and my life was never the same. I was utterly captivated by the news of a God who loved me beyond reason, and enchanted at the experience of Belonging in a youth group where loving one another was the priority (such a contrast to the halls at school!). I discovered the Bible, and the gospel, and prayer, and all kinds of other magnificent things. And I also discovered that part of being a follower of Jesus was sharing my gifts.

At one of the very first meetings I attended, we gathered for a work project. The church bell tower fell as a result of the 1971 Sylmar earthquake (the pastor was not in his office- which was destroyed!) The church grounds were covered with fallen brick. There were two pickup trucks and we had a contest- girls against boys- for who could load the most bricks into their appointed truck. It was my first lesson that I had something to give- that **I could be of use** in a time of need, and that together, we could do more than any of us individually. I still have one of those broken bricks in my office as a bookend- and a reminder.

It reminds me of what I learned about what I now call Stewardship. The idea is that Christian faith is not just contemplating profound thoughts, or having stunning spiritual experiences; not just worship and song; not just grace and joy. **It was about taking part in the work God is doing in the world- contributing out of my resources to be part of something larger than myself.** Over the years my resources have changed- I have more money and influence, for example, than I did when I was 11. And I would do a less energetic job of filling a truck with bricks!

To know that I share in that work, that in my way I get to take part in such wonderful things- is a reliable source of joy and encouragement! Tom and I give about 12 or 13% of our income each year. About 10% goes to the churches we serve, and smaller amounts go to other groups we feel called to support. Over and over when kids run down the aisle for Time With the Children, when tears come to my eyes at a memorial service, or when I see someone healing and thriving- I am moved by what it is to have a stake in that. It is, truly, a holy thing for me to experience being a small part of God's love being made visible and tangible and real.

In this chapter, as our income and circumstances change, I will be watching and listening for what the Spirit is saying, so that I may continue to share in the joy of giving. I have had to reduce my belongings to about half as our new cottage is smaller and we will have no garage. I have let go of many, many things. But the brick is coming with me.

The San Bernardino High School LifeSkillz group had their final breakfast meeting for the year on Monday, May 21, 2023. Dawn Morris and Katie Willis made "Sally's Coffee Cake" for the occasion. Dawn and Jim Morris will be joining the leadership team next year as Sandy retires. We will celebrate the 2023 LifeSkillz graduates in worship on Sunday, June 4.



First Presbyterian Church

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28  Pentecost 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	29  MEMORIAL DAY Church Office Closed. Memorial Day	30	31	1 5:15pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	2 9:30am Kerygma	3 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA 12:00pm LifeSkillz Leaders
4 Honoring LifeSkillz Graduates Trinity Sunday 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	5 6:00pm PW Gathering	6 7:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	7 4:30pm Worship Committee	8 10:00am Nurture Filling Worship bags 5:15pm Yoga Class	9 9:30am Kerygma	10 10:00am Straight Up AA 11:00am UCR Free Tree Giveaway
11 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	12	13 6:30pm Deacons	14 4:30pm Nurture Committee	15 Deadline for First Press articles 9:00am Friendship Circle 5:15pm Yoga Class 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	16 9:00am Food Bagging 9:30am Kerygma	17 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA
18 Father's Day 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	19	20 11:30am Retired Public Employees Assn. 7:00pm Mensch Group	21 5:00pm Stewardship Committee	22 5:15pm Yoga Class	23 9:30am Kerygma	24 10:00am Straight Up AA
25  COMMUNION SERVICE Communion Sunday 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	26 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	27 6:00pm Oak Tree Homeownership Program	28 5:30pm SESSION	29 5:15pm Yoga Class	30 9:30am Kerygma	1 10:00am Straight Up AA

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

1900 North D Street
 San Bernardino, CA 92405

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 2729
 San Bernardino, CA 92406

Office: 882-3308
 email: pres.first@gmail.com
www.fpcsb.net

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
 9 am to 4:30 pm

The Rev. Dr. Sandy Tice
Pastor

Dr. Wendy Long Lamb
Commissioned Local Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Steve Smith
Pastoral Support

Laurie Stafford
Ministry of Visitation

The Rev. Jim Huffstutler
Pastor Emeritus

It is the Mission of First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to proclaim the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship and celebration, and teaching and learning, so that lives are transformed and members are encouraged to use their special gifts to care for and value, as God's Beloved, each other and the community in which we live.